



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

December 11, 2007

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CITIES EXCESS FUNDS TO THE
CITY OF GLENDORA AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN
EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE BLUEBIRD
RANCH ACQUISITION PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT – 3 – VOTE MATTER)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate Fifth Supervisorial District Cities Excess Funds in the amount of \$250,000 to the City of Glendora for the Bluebird Ranch Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to award a grant to the Trust for Public Land when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$250,000 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Glendora to acquire a 262-acre property known as Bluebird Ranch located in the City of Glendora. The City, which is a qualified recipient of Cities Excess Funds under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds to the Trust for Public Land (TPL).

The Bluebird Ranch property is a key connector in the San Gabriel Foothills Corridor, provides an almost pristine watershed with existing aquifers and springs that feed Walnut Creek and then the San Gabriel River, contains high quality native grasslands and offers sustainable habitat biodiversity for wildlife and many plant species. The Bluebird Ranch property also provides several multi-use trail linkages in the San Gabriel Foothills and Mountains. TPL will acquire the property and will then convey a conservation easement to the City of Glendora. The total cost for the project is \$11,310,000, which includes the \$250,000 above. The remaining \$11,060,000 is comprised of grants from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board, as well as funding from the City of Glendora and landowner donations.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant to TPL, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, grantee compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by allocating Excess Funds for enhanced environmental stewardship and recreational opportunities in the foothills of San Gabriel Mountains in the City of Glendora in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$250,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for eligible projects within cities.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will provide additional environmental stewardship and recreation opportunities in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in the City of Glendora in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

All projects funded by the District are also required to comply with CEQA. The City of Glendora is the lead agency for the Bluebird Ranch Acquisition Project and as such, will prepare appropriate environmental documentation for the project.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPEEDISTRICT(Bluebird Ranch BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel